

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05

IGA-02 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 OMB-01 /100 W

-----172007Z 112670 /72

R 171150Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4658

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2040

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MASS, PINT, PINS, SU, CH

SUBJECT: NIMEIRI RETURNS FROM CHINA

1. NIMEIRI RETURNED TO KHARTOUM JUNE 16 FOLLOWING TEN DAY VISIT TO CHINA THAT INCLUDED VISITS TO SINKIANG AND OTHER PROVINCES AS WELL AS BRIEF TRANSIT STOPS IN PAKISTAN AND ABU DHABI. APPARENTLY THERE WAS NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING VISIT, BUT STATEMENTS BY NIMEIRI, FONMIN MANSOUR KHALED AND OTHER MEMBERS HIGH POWERED DELEGATION INDICATE SUDANESE WERE PLEASED WITH RECEPTION IN CHINA.

2. SO FAR THERE HAVE BEEN FEW DETAILS MADE PUBLIC HERE OF SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSIONS, AND WE HAVE NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS VISIT WITH ANY OFFICIALS. SENIOR FSL WHO SAW KHALED AND MINTRANSPORT ABBADI SHORTLY
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AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL DESCRIBED THEM AS TIRED BUT GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH VISIT. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS STRESS FACT THAT NIMEIRI AND HUA MET FOR THREE HOURS IN PEKING. FBIS REPORTING REVEALS THAT BOTH SIDES USED VISIT TO BLAST USSR FOR ITS POLICIES. FOR SUDAN THAT MEANT CRITICISM OF SOVIET AFRICAN POLICY, NOTABLY SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA AND LIBYA.

3. IN ADDITION, SUDANESE STATED OPENLY THAT VISIT PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR NIMEIRI, WHO MET MAO IN 1970 VISIT, TO GET TO KNOW NEW CHINESE LEADERSHIP FIRST-HAND. NIMEIRI MADE SPECIAL POINT OF LAUDING SUCCESS OF AUTONOMY IN SINKIANG WHICH LOCAL OBSERVERS WILL SEE AS CONFIRMING THAT SIMILAR METHOD IN SOUTHERN SUDAN IS SENSIBLE WAY TO APPROACH PROBLEM OF ETHNIC MINORITIES.

4. FBIS REPORTED THAT ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN PEKING, AND EVEN BEFORE TRIP BEGAN CHINESE INDICATED THEY WOULD CONTINUE PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN. SUDANGOV BELIEVES CHINESE EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO RURAL AGRICULTURE CONTAINS MANY LESSONS WORTHY OF STUDY. AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIALIZATION AND WATER PRESERVATION WERE CITED BY NIMEIRI AS EXAMPLES.

5. NIMEIRI'S ENTOURAGE INCLUDED ARMY OFFICER IN CHARGE FOREIGN PROCUREMENT, AND NIMEIRI VISITED SOME MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN CHINA. HOWEVER, NEITHER NIMEIRI NOR OTHERS SAID A WORD ON MILITARY ASPECTS OF VISIT UPON THEIR RETURN. THEREFORE, WE CANNOT YET TELL WHAT AGREEMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN REACHED REGARDING CHINESE MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR SUDAN.

6. BASED ON SKETCHY INFO AVAILABLE SO FAR, APPEARS THAT NIMEIRI'S VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN TERMS OF
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SIGNALING TO OTHERS, PARTICULARLY SOVIETS, THAT SUDAN HAS SUPPORT OF AN IMPORTANT COUNTRY IN ITS STRUGGLE AGAINST LIBYA/ETHIOPIA/USSR CHALLENGE. AT SAME TIME CHINA CONNECTION HELPS BALANCE SUDAN'S GROWING TIES WITH WEST, NOTABLY U.S., THEREBY MAINTAINING COUNTRY'S NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE IN DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL TERMS VISIT WAS SUCCESS FROM SUDANESE POINT OF VIEW. ECONOMIC RELATIONS WERE ALREADY GOOD, ALTHOUGH VISIT WAS PROBABLY WORTHWHILE FOR SUDANESE OFFICIALS WHO HAD OPPORTUNITY OBSERVE CHINESE METHODS DIRECTLY. KEY QUESTION REMAINING, THEREFORE, IS WHETHER CHINESE WERE RESPONSIVE TO WHAT SUDANESE CONSIDER VERY URGENT MILITARY REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING SPARE PARTS AND REPAIRS FOR SOVIET EQUIPMENT PRESENTLY ON HAND.
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